

3. On the Steppe-Cat of Bokhara (*Chaus caudatus*).

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(Plates VI. & VII.)

The Zoological Department of the British Museum has lately received the skin and skull of a cat which is labelled "*Felis servalina* ♀ Cocan." On the other side of the ticket is a Russian note, which Mr. Ralston has kindly translated for me as follows:—"Bokhara Steppe-cat (with skull), near the river Dyanan, 19th November, 1857, Saliko."

Saliko is probably the name of the collector. Mr. Ralston also informs me that Daria means river; and I see by the atlas that Cocan, or Khokan, is situated on the Sir Daria; and I suppose that Dyanan is a branch of the river Sir, which falls into the sea of Aral.

Mr. Dresser has kindly lent to me an essay, in Russian, on the animals of Turkestan, which has not yet been received by the Library of the British Museum or of the Zoological Society. It is by N. A. Syevertzov, and is entitled "An Essay on the vertical and horizontal Distribution of Turkestan animals," from the Transactions of the Imperial Society of Lovers of Natural Science, Anthropology and Ethnography, vol. viii. part ii. (Moscow, 1873).

In the list of Turkestan animals, the name of *Felis servalina* occurs, and possibly it is the same as *Felis servalina* on the label of the specimen. M. Syevertzov does not describe or figure it as a new species, but prints the name as he does those of all the well-known species, not in italics as he does those which he considers new. He does not give any authority for the species; and therefore it is impossible to make out which of the cats that bear the name of *Felis servalina* he considers it to be. There are no less than three species so named in the collection of the British Museum, viz.:—

1. *Felis servalina* of Ogilby, P. Z. S. 1839, p. 4, from Sierra Leone, W. coast of Africa.
2. *Felis servalina*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1867, p. 401, from India. Now called *Felis herschellii*, Cat. Carniv. B. M. p. 28.
3. *Chaus servalinus*, Gerrard, Cat. Bones B. M. p. 65, which is a synonym of *Felis serval* of W. Africa.

But *Chaus caudatus* is undoubtedly distinct from all these.

The cat is, I believe, a species not yet inscribed in the catalogues of the genus *Chaus*. It has the close soft fur and general colouring and pencilled ears of that genus; but instead of having the short tail only reaching to the hocks or heels of the hitherto known species of that genus, its tail is elongate-cylindrical, reaching to the ground. I therefore propose to call it *Chaus caudatus*.

CHAUS CAUDATUS, n. sp. (Plate VI.)

Fur close, soft, pale yellowish, blackish brown at the base, with

very numerous small irregular spots. The spots are smallest and roundest on the dorsal line, oblong on the sides, and forming interrupted lines on the shoulders and thighs, which are most distinct on the outside of the fore legs, and especially forming four broad cross streaks on the front edge of the thighs. Tail cylindrical, reaching to the ground, spotted at the upper part of the base, and with eight or nine narrow interrupted rings on the upper part of the remaining portion, and with a black tip. Nose brown, with short hair. Forehead and cheeks like the back, but with smaller spots, and without any distinct dark streaks from the back edge of the eye. The ears ovate, acute, pale brown externally, with a terminal pencil of blackish hairs, and whitish on the edge within. Chin, hinder parts of the upper lip, under part of the head, throat, chest, belly, inside of legs and hind feet whitish brown, the chin being whitest and the inside of the hind legs and feet darkest. There is a large blackish spot on the upper part of the inside of the fore legs, and two small cross streaks on the front edge of the inside of the hind thighs. The hinder part of the hind feet to the heel blackish.

Length of body and head $23\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; tail $12\frac{1}{2}$ in. ; height at shoulder 12 in.

Hab. "Cocan," Bokhara.

The skull (Pl. VII.) is $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, and $2\frac{7}{8}$ wide at the zygomatic arch ; the lower jaw is $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. long, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide at the condyles. It has a short face, with a round well-developed brain-cavity and large orbits.

This species is most like *Chaus ornatus* ; but that differs in the spots being round and distinct and in the tail being shorter.

It differs from the *Felis chaus* from the shores of the Caspian, known all over Southern Asia as the Jungle-Cat, figured by Gldenstadt in the 'Nov. Comm. Acad. Petrop.' xx. p. 483, t. 14, in the tail being much longer and the fur distinctly spotted. The pale brown colour of the outer side of the ears at once distinguishes it from the red-eared *Chaus catolynx*, and the Cape-Cat, *Felis caligata*. It has nothing to do with the *Felis euptilura*, described and figured by Mr. Elliot in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1873, p. 759, t. lxxvi., from a skin in a bad state belonging to Mr. Bartlett, "stated to come from Siberia," and now in the British Museum. Mr. Elliot describes his species as coming from *North-western* Siberia, and thinks it is the same as a cat from Amurland figured as *Felix undata* ? by Radde (*Reisen im Sden von Ost-Sibirien*, 1862, p. 106, t. iv.). I do not know what is the authority for Mr. Elliot's statement as to the part of Siberia in which this animal is said to be found ; Mr. Bartlett does not give any, and M. Radde travelled in *East* Siberia. Perhaps it is only a mistake in writing.

Radde collected his *Felis undata* in the Amurland ; he believes (*l. c.* p. 113) that it is identical with the cat I described as *Felis chinensis*, Gray (*Mag. Zool.* 1837) ; but evidently he had never seen *Felis chinensis* from S. China, any more than he had seen *Felis undata* of Desmarest or *Felis minuta* of Temminck from Java, after which he names his cat on the plate. If he had, he must have

